If you choose write a paper:

Your paper should be 1,000-1,200 words (four to five pages when correctly formatted), and should have a clear thesis. You are making a specific argument about the novel. Your paper should be based solely on your reading and interpretation of the text. **Outside sources are not permitted.** Quotes should be well-chosen but short, and should not comprise more than 20 percent of the paper. (I am interested in your thoughts, rather than seeing strung-together quotes). Papers should be in standard American English and in standard format: double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point, and written in the third person (no "I/me"). Rough drafts due on Fri. Feb. 18. Final drafts are due on Fri. Feb. 25.

The topics are as follows:

**A).** Throughout the book, characters refer to the role of fate. To what extent does fate play a role in Emma's life, and to what extent is she an agent of her own misery? What larger comment, if any, is Flaubert making about fate and the middle class? Be sure to back up your argument with direct examples from the text.

**B).** Consider the role of Emma's happiness in the novel. Why is she such a poor judge of what and whom will make her happy? Are there any circumstances under which she might have achieved lasting happiness? What conclusions can you draw from her moments of happiness? Does her understanding of happiness change at the end of her life?

**C).** Please do a close reading of the scene in which Emma and Leon tour the cathedral in Rouen. Dismantle the scene and offer an interpretation of its subtext. What do the character's words and actions tell us? What is being suggested by symbols and allusions? Why is this passage important to the book as a whole?

Papers will be graded on:

- accurate understanding and thoughtful response to the source text;

- creativity and intellect (papers that merely repeat what has been said in class are not impressive);

- correct use of standard American English.

If you choose to do a project: Please do a Prezi presentation, focusing on textiles, food, or flowers in Madame Bovary. Your project will have a thesis: that is, you will be arguing a point about the role of wardrobe, textiles, or flowers in Bovary. Your project should feature nine examples from the text. Each example should include a direct quote and an appropriate image or multimedia link. Students doing the project will each make a 5-7 minute presentation to the class, and must turn in a one-page written statement on how each quote and image relates to his or her thesis, as well as a Works Cited page (identifying the sources of your images is more important than perfect formatting). While a rough draft is not required, students do need to send me a message through the Assignments key, indicating their intention to do a project, by Feb. 18.

If you choose to do a project, do not leave it until the last minute; you may need to spend some time at MindSpace, in the library, if you need technical help. Remember that this project should take about the same amount of time as a four to five-page paper, so your work should be of a high caliber. Projects will not be considered complete or passable without the one-page statement, which is due Feb. 25, and should be submitted through the assignments key, along with a link to the Prezi.

Prezis will be graded on:

-Evidence that the student dealt with the source text in a thorough and thoughtful manner;

-Demonstration of creative thought in relation to the source text;

- Progress report and final statement presented in appropriate standard American English.

- Professional-style, well-practiced class presentation.